

Congressman Secured \$980,000 for the City of Ithaca's Waterfront Trail

Ithaca, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined Ithaca Mayor Carolyn Peterson, President of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Jean McPheeters and Project Coordinator Rick Manning for the groundbreaking ceremony on Phase III of the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative (CWTI). The project is paid for through \$980,000 Hinchey secured for the City of Ithaca's Waterfront Trail in the 2006 Federal Transportation Reauthorization Act.

"Everyone should have an opportunity to view and experience the beautiful scenery of Cayuga Lake, and through the continued expansion and development of waterfront trails we are ensuring that will happen," said Hinchey. "I secured \$980,000 from Congress for this project, because I know how essential it is to enhancing the quality of life for local residents and making the area more attractive to visitors from across the globe. With the next phase of this project now moving forward, the Cayuga Waterfront Trail is quickly becoming a popular destination for people of all ages and one of best ways to experience the natural beauty of the area."The Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative (CWTI) is a partnership of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the City of Ithaca. The Cayuga Waterfront Trail will be a six-mile, multi-use trail providing an active, non-motorized transportation and recreation way connecting the community's most popular waterfront parks and places. The Waterfront Trail will help Ithaca develop a sustainable transportation system, enhance the quality of life and contribute to the revitalization of our community's waterfront. Phase III of the trail will link the trail to the farmers market, the Northside and Fall Creek neighborhoods and Stewart Park. Phase I was supported by the City, the NYS Bond Act and private donations. It was completed in 2003 and remains a popular destination for walkers, bikers and joggers. Phase II is in the design stage and will be constructed starting in 2011 using a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant.